

4/19/70

Dear Mr. Sidey,

I write you not seeking TIME-LIFE space but because I still believe you meant every word about which I first wrote you, were genuine in expressing a deep concern in referring to "this gang" in government, and in the hope this latest melding of irresponsibility and blunder by the vast corporation of which you are an important part will dismay you a fraction as much as it does me.

When a legitimate suit in which the Deputy Attorney General brands himself a liar is filed because of the unheard of confiscation and suppression of court records, TIME-LIFE had no interest. Remember, I phoned you personally. Yet you talk of "this gang" and TIME defies a wretched scoundrel who is their running dog? You never looked at the suit or its attached documentation, part of which is Kleindienst's own letters to me.

I become part of "That conspiratorial army of would-be historians"? But you people write true history?

And shameless crooks become part of the true history?

I tell you in all seriousness, this legal fakery by Skolnick is entirely beyond adequate description. It is the wildest, sick imagining presented as gospel. He saw the chance for more publicity, as vital to him as breath to you, and started working on it two months ago laying court (with my material) first to CBS's WBEM, then involved his college and his class on small-time WRSV (which pretends it has no tape when that show was taped in advance), wound up with WCBL, which ~~was~~ worked with him for two weeks, doing less checking than even TIME, and got him on the UPI wire.

The law allegedly invoked prescribes certain steps, and properly does this. Each agency, again properly, has added regulations. Otherwise nuts could drive the government crazy. Not only did Skolnick do none of this, Johnson is my source for the fact that he never once asked the Archives for a single thing! The only legitimate paper attached to that infamous device for getting himself publicity not stolen from me was given him by my lawyer who never dreamed he'd make such insane use of it. This is the record of the phone call, also not suppressed.

However, what may be defamatory is withheld, and here you can check Skolnick and me simultaneously. To protect the man who made the inquiry for me, because he wants anonymity, I cut his identification out of the copy I sent the friend helping me and imposed upon by Skolnick. Get that from Skolnick and compare that with what is in my files. Of course, you can also do this with all the documents.

So, you continue with that noble piety, TIME-LIFE with mixed holiness and infallibility. And I'll continue, wearier at the endless abdication of the so-called responsible writers and the so-called responsible press, anxiously awaiting your next wrist-slapping of this "gang". Sincerely, Harold Weisberg